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1966-07

Part of Monterey's Past -- Sloat's Landing

Classmate Magazine; Caudill, Berry

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/59337>

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Voice of the Command

Behind the inauspicious door in the basement of Herrmann Hall buzzes the heartline of the Mail and Communications center of the Naval Postgraduate School. For three years this department has been running smoothly and efficiently under the capable direction of LT Mary J. Burch.

As the Communications Officer, LT Burch has been responsible for routing all messages to the right people. Her sphere of influence extends not only to the students and personnel at the Postgraduate School, but also to the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Naval Reserve Training Center, Fleet Numerical Weather Facility, and the Defense Language Institute.

Approximately 250 messages and 500 pounds of mail are received per day at the Communications Center and forwarded to the proper recipients, a number in excess of 5000 persons. Messages and orders arrive from all over the world via teletype. There is a BUPERS Officers' Order Listing in the office and any order modifications are quickly relayed. Navy personnel at the Defense Language Institute and all PG School personnel check out at the Comm. Office. Mail for detached persons is forwarded for 90 days.

Assisting LT Burch in this horrendous job are one civilian, one postal clerk to handle student and faculty mailboxes, and ten radiomen who maintain around the clock watches as the Communication center is operative 24 hours a day.

LT Burch, one of the less than 400 WAVE officers commissioned, will be leaving us for Bainbridge, Md., to become an administrative officer at the Recruit Training Command for Women. At the present time she feels she will retire after



—U. S. Navy photo

this tour of duty with 25 years service, 23 of which have been in communications. She has been to approximately 12 different duty stations in her career ranging from London to Hawaii and many states in between. Hawaii was her favorite assignment.

The WAVES provide a nucleus in the event of mobilization and are presently operating on a peace-time quota. Being such a small talk force promotion potential is tight. Most of the positions occupied by the WAVES have been in administration and communications but recently more

technical areas have been opening up for women in the service, such as oceanography, ops-analysis, meteorology, and electronics.

LT Burch will turn over the reins of office to LT Ronald J. McAfee. LT McAfee just received his Bachelor's degree in Communications Engineering here at the Naval Postgraduate School. Prior to that he served aboard the USS Brownstein DE 1037 in San Diego.

Classmate wishes LT Burch Godspeed and a thank you for assisting us. We extend a hearty welcome to LT McAfee with whom we look forward to a continued good relationship with the Department.

—Phyllis Naples



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